



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)
MACCHETTI ET AL.)
Serial No. 09/974,705)
Filing Date: October 10, 2001)
For: METHOD AND CIRCUIT FOR DATA)
ENCRYPTION/DECRYPTION)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the calculation of fees and examination of the present application, please enter the amendments and remarks set out below.

In the Drawings:

Submitted herewith is a request for a proposed drawing modification as indicated in red ink to label FIGS. 1-4 as prior art.

In the Specification:

Please insert the heading -- Background of the Invention -- at line 9 of page 1 immediately before the paragraph beginning there and amend the paragraph so as to read as follows:

--The Rijndael algorithm is a block cipher algorithm operating on blocks of data. The algorithm reads an entire block of data, processes the block and then outputs the encrypted data. The Rijndael algorithm needs a key, which is